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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ELAMIN, ABDELMONIEM I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2116

2

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/934,574

Applicant(s)

SU ET AL.

Examiner

A Elamin

Art Unit

2116

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Betker et al, US.

Pat. No. 5,909,557.

3. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Betker et al, US.

Pat. No. 5,909,557.

4. Claims 7 and 8, Betker teaches an apparatus for reducing strapping devices in a computer system having at least one configurable device [*title, abstract*], comprising;

a peripheral bus [*abstract*];

a non-volatile memory, coupled to the peripheral bus, having a reserved space to store a configuration value [*col. 1, lines 66-67*]; and

a bridge logic, coupled to the peripheral bus, comprising; a latch, responsive to configuration enable signal, to assert the configuration value to configure the at least one configurable device; and a multiplexer, having an output port coupled to the latch, to assert the configuration value stored in the non-volatile memory on the output port during power-up and reset states of the computer system, and to assert the run-time programmable configuration

Art Unit: 2116

information on the output port during other operational states, based on a state of strapping ready signal [*Figs 3-5, col. 1, lines 53-60, col. 4, line 1 thru col. 5, line 55*].

5. Claim 9, Betker teaches the configuration enable signal is asserted except when ... [*col. 4, line 53 thru col. 5, line 22*].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Betker et al, US. Pat. No. 5,909,557.

8. Claim 10, Betker fails to teach an ISA bus.

Official Notice is taken that both the concept and the advantages of ISA bus is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Betker to include ISA bus, because of its widespread availability, being included as the system bus within almost every "IBM-compatible" personal

Art Unit: 2116

computer. Almost any adapter card function which is available for personal computers is available with an ISA interface.

9. Claim 11, Betker fails to teach a PCI bus.

Official Notice is taken that both the concept and the advantages of PCI bus is old and well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Betker to include PCI bus, because it has a high throughput (*its data transfer rate is 16.7 times that of the ISA bus*). Also it has an additional advantage that an interface for connection with the bus unit can be manufactured at reduced cost.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A Elamin whose telephone number is (703)305-3804. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A Elamin
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

April 25, 2004



A. ELAMIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER